

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

FOR NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

January 2005



Diverging unemployment rate trends suggest different paths for North Central counties

Adams County's unemployment rate was 0.9 percent below its typical level in January 2004 and 2.7 percent above its typical level in December 2004. Except May through July, total employment estimates were below year-ago levels for all of 2004. Leisure & hospitality employment estimates were further below year-ago levels from October through December than the rest of the year.

From April through November, **Forest County's** unemployment rate was below typical levels. In December, it rose further above typical than it had been at any point in 2004. Though not as far below year-ago levels as March through June, manufacturing employment estimates spent all of 2004 below year-ago levels. Leisure & hospitality employment estimates struggled during the summer and dropped off sharply in the autumn, remaining well below year-ago levels since September.

Langlade County's unemployment rate rose more gradually than usual in December, leaving it 0.3 percent above the typical December level, which is closer to normal than the rate was at any point in 2004. Total nonfarm employment estimates for 2004 fluctuated much like estimates from 2003, as did most sectors' estimates. One notable exception was the transportation, warehousing & utilities employment sector, whose employment estimates started the year well below 2003 levels and ended above 2003 levels.

Lincoln County's unemployment rate rose more quickly than usual in

December, leaving it 0.3 percent above its typical level. This ties October for the furthest above normal since March. Manufacturing employment estimates did not rise in the summer of 2004 as they had in 2003, and ended the year further below year-ago levels than they had been all year. Roughly the same is true of total employment estimates.

Marathon County's unemployment rate rose more slowly than usual in December, leaving it 0.5 percent below the typical December level. This is the furthest below typical it has been since March and a noticeable improve-

ment from November and December of 2003 but gained ground in the same months of 2004, leaving them further above year-ago estimates than they had been at any point in 2004.

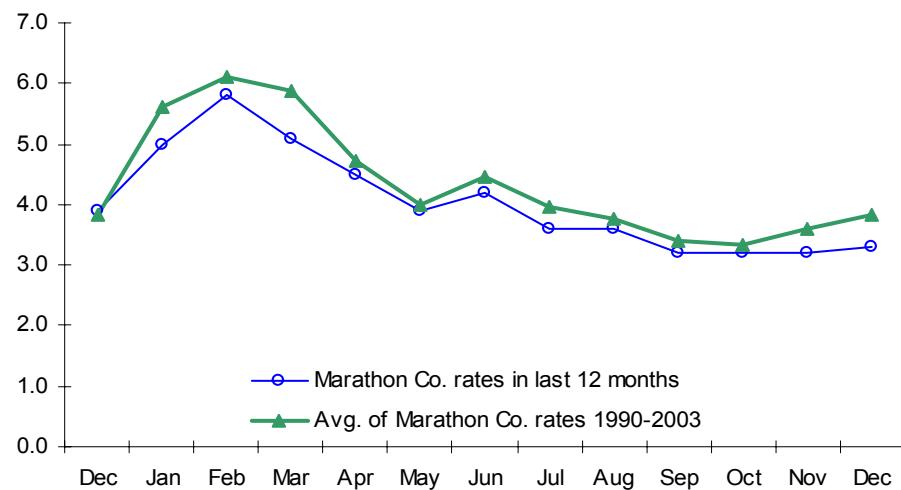
Portage County's unemployment rate rose more slowly than it typically does in December, ending up 0.1 percent above its typical level. This is as close to the normal as the rate came in 2004. Employment estimates for the construction sector and for the retail & wholesale trade sector followed similar seasonal patterns in 2003 and 2004.

Vilas County's unemployment rate rose slower than usual in December, leaving it a bit closer to normal. At 0.7 percent above typical, December ties March, July and September for second place; only April was closer to normal. Manufacturing employment estimates were below 2003 levels for all of 2004; in December they fell further below year-ago levels

than they had been in 2004. Financial activities employment estimates grew more slowly in 2004 than in 2003.

Wood County's unemployment rate rose much more slowly than usual in December. At 0.7 percent above the typical December level, it is closer to normal than any other monthly rate in 2004 except August. Information, professional, business & other services employment estimates began 2004 quite near year-ago levels and widened the gap (unsteadily at first). Retail & wholesale trade employment estimates have not yet recovered from January and February declines.

Unemployment rates - not seasonally adjusted



ment from last December's rate, which was above normal. Professional & business services employment estimates began the year below year-ago levels and gained momentum to finish the year a bit above year-ago levels. Except an anomalous dip in April, manufacturing employment estimates spent most of the year moderately above year-ago levels.

Oneida County's unemployment rate rose faster than usual in December. At 0.7 percent above its typical December level, the rate was in keeping with May through September performance but less encouraging than October and November. Retail & wholesale trade

Employment by industry estimates - not seasonally adjusted

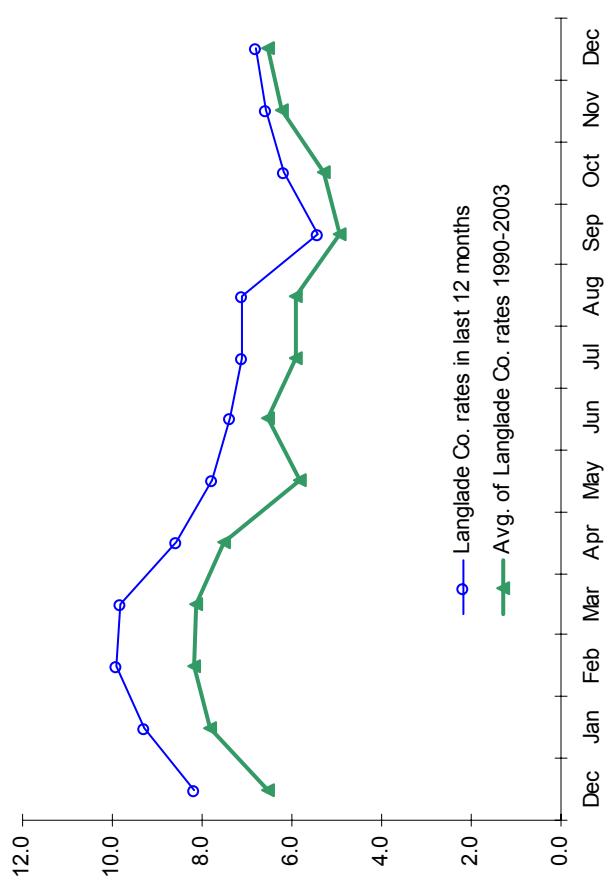
		Wisconsin			Adams			Forest			Langlade			Lincoln		
		Dec 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Dec 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Dec 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Dec 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Dec 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all industries*	2,857,100	-15,700	63,200	3,900	-50	-10	3,300	-50	-110	3,600	10	40	11,800	-20	-210	
Const., min'g & nat. resources	127,900	-6,300	2,400	240	-10	30	100	-40	0	160	0	10	330	0	-50	
Manufacturing	516,800	-3,000	15,400	450	10	20	320	-10	-20	390	-10	-30	3,500	-10	-180	
Trade (w wholesale & retail)	461,500	800	14,900	510	0	0	310	0	0	700	0	30	1,770	0	-30	
Transport, Wrhsng, Utilities	109,900	-300	1,700	130	0	0	160	-10	0	190	0	10	410	0	0	
Financial activities	163,700	1,000	3,600	100	0	10	100	0	0	200	-10	10	810	0	30	
Education & health services	384,800	1,500	10,900	500	10	30	370	0	0	300	0	20	960	0	0	
Leisure & hospitality	240,600	-300	3,600	360	-10	-70	150	-10	-70	220	0	0	980	0	20	
Info, prof, bus. & other svrcs	438,300	-3,700	15,000	400	-20	20	190	0	-20	310	10	0	1,020	-20	0	
Government	413,600	-5,400	-4,300	1,210	-20	-30	1,600	10	-10	1,080	10	-10	2,100	10	10	
Civilian Labor Force**	3,092,200	-20,700	27,100	8,400	-60	250	5,000	20	-110	9,400	-100	-250	14,600	50	-300	
Employed	2,963,800	-18,800	48,500	7,700	-140	-60	4,600	-70	-110	8,800	-120	-90	13,700	-70	-220	
Unemployed	128,300	-1,930	-21,500	700	80	300	350	90	0	640	10	-160	830	120	-80	
Unemployment rate (%)	4.2	0.0	-0.7	8.3	1.0	3.4	7.0	1.8	0.3	6.8	0.2	-1.4	5.7	0.8	-0.4	
		Marathon			Oneida			Portage			Villas			Wood		
		Dec 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Dec 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Dec 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Dec 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Dec 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all industries*	71,600	-600	1,600	17,600	-330	50	34,900	10	660	7,600	-150	-190	44,500	200	-160	
Const., min'g & nat. resources	2,700	-200	0	1,150	-150	40	1,100	-80	70	850	-80	40	1,680	-60	30	
Manufacturing	18,100	-300	500	1,280	-10	-100	4,600	20	-230	370	-20	-50	7,000	10	-390	
Trade (w wholesale & retail)	14,900	-100	300	4,000	20	170	6,600	60	310	1,390	-10	40	6,900	250	-210	
Transport, Wrhsng, Utilities	2,900	-100	0	460	0	-10	1,980	-10	60	130	0	10	3,300	-40	150	
Financial activities	4,900	0	100	540	0	0	3,900	-20	110	420	20	20	1,200	0	40	
Education & health services	7,400	100	200	3,100	10	-20	3,400	0	150	780	-10	10	11,200	-40	140	
Leisure & hospitality	5,000	100	200	2,100	-10	80	3,200	20	70	1,100	-20	-100	2,800	-40	50	
Info, prof, bus. & other svrcs	7,600	100	400	2,200	-160	-50	4,000	20	90	570	-10	-50	5,000	110	180	
Government	8,100	-200	-100	2,600	-10	-70	6,100	-10	40	2,000	-30	-110	5,400	10	-150	
Civilian Labor Force**	78,300	-830	1,260	21,000	-190	-70	40,700	-60	670	11,400	-160	-50	41,600	80	-250	
Employed	75,700	-880	1,640	19,700	-420	-10	39,100	-150	700	10,600	-230	-10	39,600	60	-70	
Unemployed	2,600	50	-380	1,320	230	-60	1,610	90	-30	780	70	-50	2,000	20	-190	
Unemployment rate (%)	3.3	0.1	-0.6	6.3	1.2	-0.3	4.0	0.3	-0.1	6.8	0.7	-0.4	4.9	0.1	-0.4	

Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Numbers ≥ 2,000 are rounded to nearest 100; numbers < 2,000 rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers; results rounded.

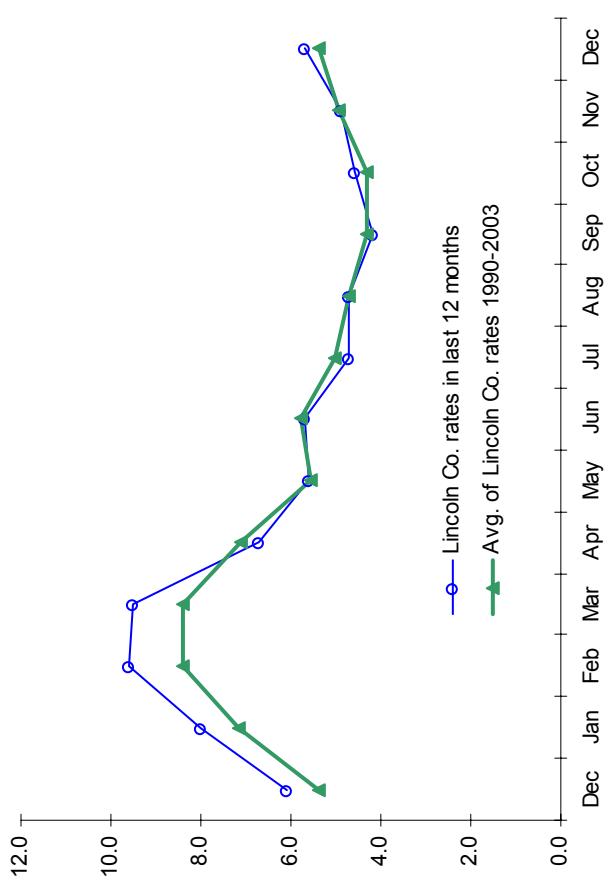
*Includes jobs with employers in area. ** Includes labor force participants residing in area.

For more information call (608) 242-4385, email dan.barnette@dwd.wisconsin.gov or go to <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/oef>.

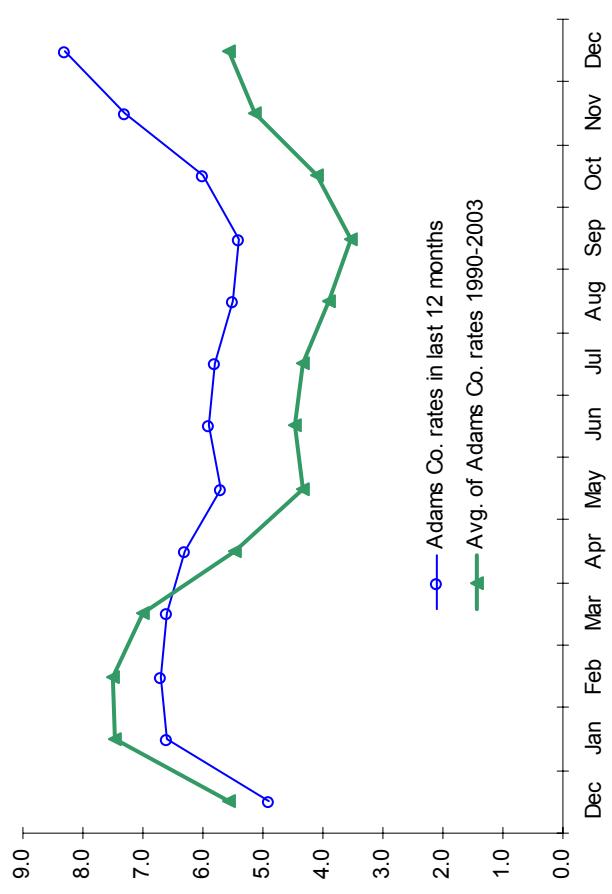
Unemployment rates - not seasonally adjusted



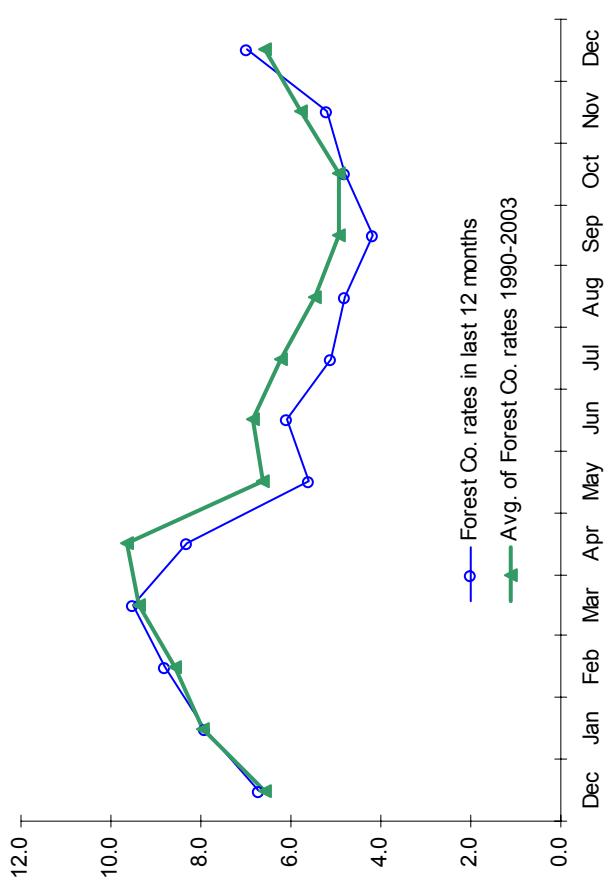
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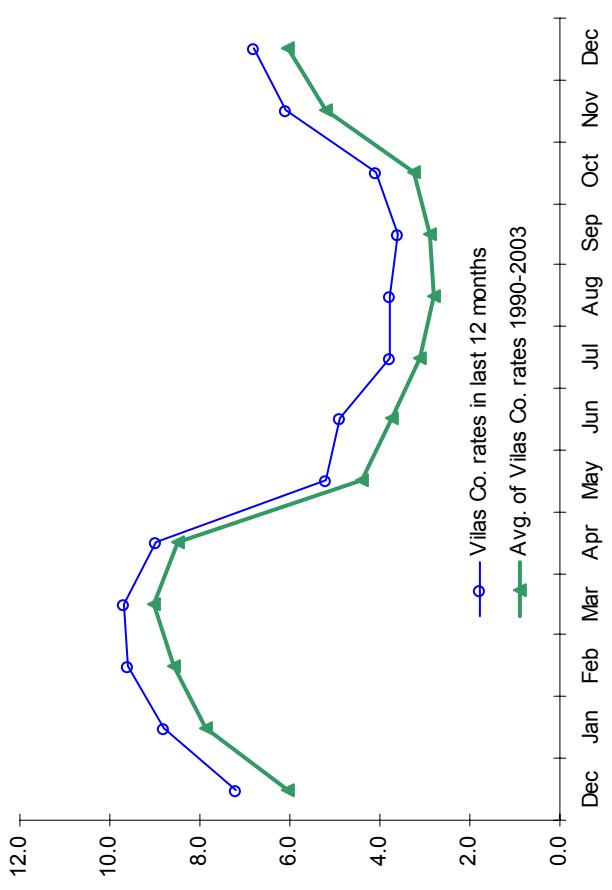
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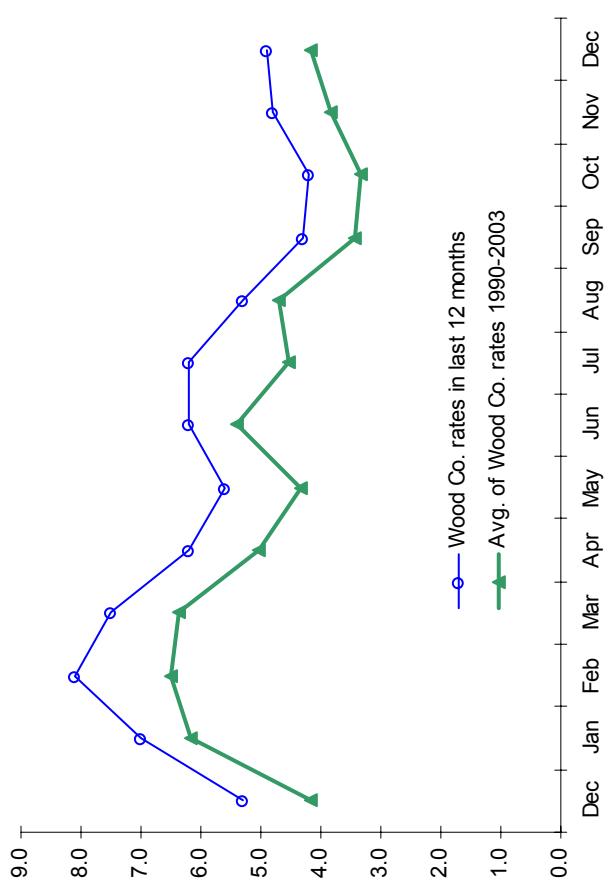
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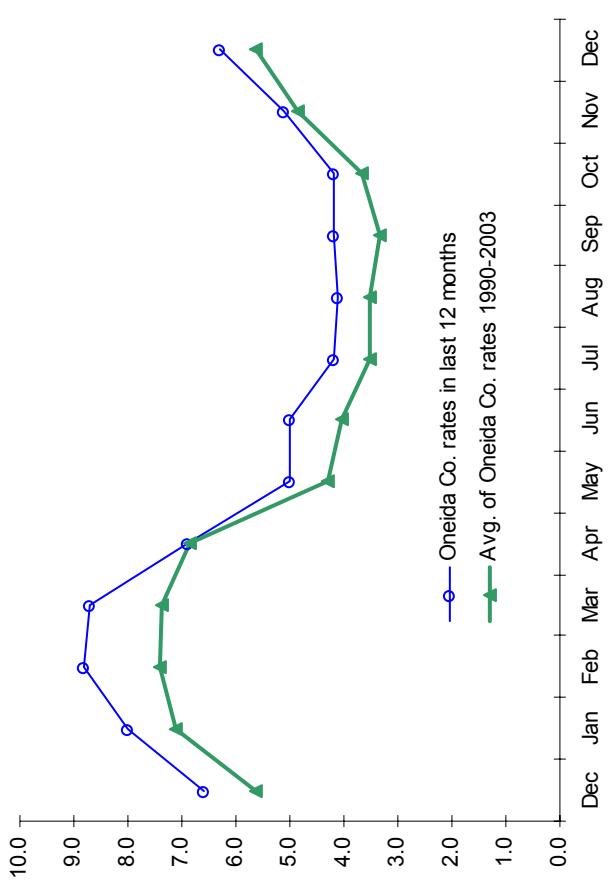
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